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ARMY TALKS



Evening Standard

Picture Paradise



RESTRICTED • EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS • UNITED STATES ARMY



"It is desired that, consistent with operational requirements, group discussions, through the medium ARMY TALKS . . . be held in all units within this command, using one hour of training time each week . . . unit commanders will conduct an orientation program, using not less than one hour training time a week . . . presentation of this material is a command function. . . . A company officer will be present at each discussion, whether or not he is the discussion leader. . . ."

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER.

(Extract from letter ETO, 30 April 1944, AG 352/2 OpGA,
Subject: Education in Military and Current Affairs.)

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR OF



Dear Captain:

The American army is composed of men and women used to thinking for themselves. General Eisenhower is determined that every American soldier in this Theater will be a well informed soldier. He has directed that one hour a week of duty time be devoted to group discussions—consistent with operational requirements. He has provided ARMY TALKS to give discussion leaders factual, authentic information on pertinent topics, as material for free discussion by the men in the ranks.

This week's ARMY TALK concerns failure of Germany's effort to recruit French labor for German war plants by a flamboyant advertising campaign, setting up the joys and rewards for such an effort. A similar campaign directed toward the Germans would have succeeded. For the German is used to being told, not to thinking.

Is your unit fully using ARMY TALKS? Are your unit commanders aware of the opportunity they afford in the mental preparation of their troops? Do they make sure that duty time is allotted for group discussion? And do these commanders ever attend these discussions? If they don't, they're missing an opportunity

to estimate the mental calibre of their men—for thinking soldiers know why they are fighting, the nature and tricks of the enemy they are fighting, and are able to act individually when crises arise as the going gets tougher in combat.

ARMY TALKS are distributed on a basis of three copies to a company. We hope you and your subordinate commanders read these pamphlets too. On Thursday, eight days after the publication appears, the Warweek supplement of Stars and Stripes presents a newspaper version of the article. The soldier reading Warweek goes to his discussion group meeting with some advance knowledge of the meeting's topic. On Saturdays at 1430, a dramatized version of the current topic is broadcast over the American Forces Network—with part of the network's own discussion hour. Have you considered setting your discussion group hour to coincide with this radio presentation, using the broadcast as the starting point of your own discussion?

ARMY TALKS have been prepared on a wide variety of subjects. Maybe you have some ideas of timely topics, provocative of discussion. If so, by all means write these suggestions to the editor. We would also appreciate receiving your criticism of ARMY TALKS already published.

ARTHUR GOODFRIEND,
Major, AUS,
Chief, Orientation Branch.

OUT OF THE MAIL BAG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF ARMY TALKS

Dear Editor,

Perhaps I'm just one small voice in this man's army, but I've wanted to speak my piece about ARMY TALKS for a long, long time.

To begin with, ARMY TALKS, as presented to us at our orientation meetings, are so dull that everyone (or almost everyone) falls asleep. Why? Because the officer in charge is usually not informed about the subject, he isn't able to present the material to the men in an interesting and straight-forward manner, and only a handful of the men bother to help the discussion along with ideas. The others are evidently too disgusted or bored to say anything.

I think that the ARMY TALKS booklets themselves are usually too dead-pan, they don't always deal with the important topics of the day, and the officers in the units in the field aren't able to put the stuff over. The worst part is that they really don't care. E. W.

We realize that any leader can make or break a discussion meeting. If he's really bad he can wreck what might be a good ARMY TALKS. As for recent issues, we should like to point out that we are trying to put out a varied and a timely list of topics. If we can have suggestions to improve the job, we will certainly use them. We ask the writer to remember that it is part of our job, as it is his, to know as much as possible about the enemy—and how to kill him.

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Dear ARMY TALKS,

Congratulations on the good job ARMY TALKS and WARWEEK are doing!

It helps remind us that we are not unthinking robots but citizen-soldiers who have an obligation to think. . . . Give us a variety of topics and keep them discussible. Some high spots in our discussion group: Agar's "Nature of a Free Man"; "Notes from Normandy"; "Who's Who, What's What and Hau's hauser"; "Mein Kampf," and "GI Bill of Rights."

Let's have more like them. This democratic program has helped morale on this station.

H. H. H.

Glad to hear. Thank you.

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Dear Editor,

The choice of topics for ARMY TALKS is generally pretty good, although I think that military themes and subjects dealing with fighting and combat could be stressed even more. After all, we are in this darned war, aren't we?

But the trouble in this unit is that we find it hard to get a real discussion going. Active participation is limited to a few good speakers, and as to the rest, it is hard to say whether they get anything out of it. What are the short cuts to getting a lively discussion group, and what can I as a platoon leader do to improve ARMY TALKS in this outfit. A. L. S.

One of the answers to this question is: Get to know your men well, talk to them in small groups and individually, and give more attention to those who had little education. If you can activate them and show them how to look at the problems we discuss, you have won the battle.

We also refer you to the forthcoming "Army Talks on ARMY TALKS," which contains many hints and suggestions for discussion groups.

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Dear Editor,

I am writing after our discussion on the "GI Bill of Rights" to get something straight. I finished high school and then went to work to earn enough money to go to college. The army took me first. Do I get money from the government to continue my education? B. P.

You do. If you can satisfactorily establish the fact you planned to go to college you get \$500 a year minimum. It's in the ARMY TALKS on "GI Bill of Rights."

Letters sent to the Editor, ARMY TALKS, Special Service Division, Hq. CZ, ETA—APO 887, U.S. Army, will be read with interest. Criticism and suggestions are welcome. Answers will be made as above, space permitting.

ARMY TALKS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

Picture Paradise



THE feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys was a pillow fight compared with the centuries old scrap between Fritz and the French. History records no fewer than 18 major and minor wars between Frenchmen and Germans since the year A.D. 9. The last round began in September, 1939. The Boche won on a technical K.O. He looked like the world's champ—for keeps.

But Hitler had an uneasy feeling about the knockout. He cocked an eye at the bloody body of France lying under his heel, and another eye at the record. The record had its ups and downs. It showed that Germany would win one war and France the next. In 1871, for instance, Germany had knocked the spots out of France. But in 1918 the decision was reversed.

This bombs, bullets and bayonets business, it seemed, didn't altogether work. At least the results weren't permanent. So Adolf came up with another one of his intuitive flashes. Hitler decided that bombs, bullets and bayonets were out. He decided that the way to win for keeps was with sweetness, love and light.

Kill 'em With Sweetness

A new kind of warfare was launched against the French. It was a sly, cynical kind of war which few American soldiers fully understood until we breached the Atlantic Wall and fought our way into Normandy. Then we learned at first hand the strategy, tactics and weapons of Hitler's war of sweetness, love and light.

It wasn't a complete surprise, of course. Intelligence services—British, French and American—hadn't been asleep. Fugitives from the Continent had brought with them fragments of evidence. Newspapers had published a lot of inside stuff about it, and Germany itself had released a smoke screen of propaganda which hinted at the new weapons at work in conquered France.

But it wasn't until the morning of June 25, 1944, that the nature of this new kind of war was fully revealed to one squad of American soldiers. That morning Cherbourg fell, a GI walked through the streets of the dead city, kicking aside the glass that littered the street and viewing with interest the first large city of France to be delivered from Hitler's hands.





Shops were either battered or buttoned up. They seemed old and shabby. But one shop front on that main street was different from the rest. It had a slick black marble facing, and the name stood out in large modern chromium letters—Bureau de Placement Allemand—German Employment Bureau. The window was broken, but a snappy display of booklets and photographs remained to attract the eye.

The soldier studied the display for a while. Then he went in and picked up from the shelves a complete collection of the booklets, brochures and pictures he found there. They were handsomely illustrated with paintings and photographs. The paper was of the finest quality. They looked like swell stuff to look over when he had the time.

One of the boys in the outfit could read a little French. So that evening the outfit gathered round while Frenchie explained what the booklets and brochures and pictures were all about.

“Vacation Paradise For Workers”

“Here’s a pretty book,” said Frenchie. “It’s called ‘Images,’ and listen to this sub-title: ‘Pictures of the Life of Those who have Departed.’ Sounds like a book about folks who are dead, but it’s really about Frenchmen who have gone to Germany.

“This introduction says that some French journalists were sent to Germany. They left Paris with convoys of workers heading for German factories. For several days these writers lived the same life as the workers. Here’s the way the book says it: ‘To inform the public and show them the truth as it actually is, is the mission of the journalist. This mission today is more essential than ever in order to reply to lying propaganda that poisons a part of the French public.’

“And so these French journalists left France. A picture shows Pierre Laval bidding them farewell. His parting words are: ‘Workers, I ask you to think about my words. I am determined to defend your interests, those of prisoners and those of all France. This test is decisive. Conquer your egotism. It is your duty to win back by your labors that which France has lost by her arms. For yourselves, for the prisoners, for France, it is essential to obey the orders of the Government.’

“With this happy note of farewell, eleven writers—ten men and one woman—left for Germany.

“First we see them climbing on board the bus, their baggage in hand. The book says: ‘From the four corners of Europe men by the hundreds and thousands come to work in the factories and shops of the Third Reich. Conquered France joins in this effort. Have they been requisitioned? No,



they have been mobilized. It is mobilization of a character unique in history. It embraces recruits from the length and breadth of Europe, many millions of male and female workers. One is staggered by the problems of transport, feeding and lodging that this movement has placed on a country which, like Germany, finds itself in a state of war for over four years.'

'The pictures show the workers leaving the great eastern station in Paris. 'From the older people,' it says, 'there is not a cry. A solemn silence overcomes them. But the departure of the young ones, on the contrary, is more exuberant.'

'Then there is a picture of prisoners and workers mingling on the station platform. It says: 'Workers who leave of their own free will for Germany—look at these men whom you cross on your way. They owe to you their liberty; they will never forget you. Thanks to you they rejoin their families and their country. Their gratitude and that of the whole nation leaps toward you. France will find itself more quickly if its children understand the law of unity and of work. Fraternity, which formerly was nothing but a pretty word, here becomes a beautiful solidarity.'

'Arrived in Germany, the journalists find paradise. It tells about a 'Villa Miralanda.' This villa, it says, with its beautiful beach, its terraces on the lake, and its perfect comfort, actually exists. 'I have seen it. I have



lived there, and basic honesty compels me not to deny its charms. Here are showers and a kitchen, dining room, salon, library and many bedrooms. Moreover, there is in the rotunda the famous winter garden with pear trees, fig trees, and all kinds of tropical foliage.'

'And then on the same page are pictures of some ordinary barracks, with something printed in small type: 'More simple are the barracks of this camp of French workers.'

"Good Food—Good Pay"

'Then on the next pages are pictures of big kitchens filled with chefs in white linen, and beautiful French girls tasting food which they themselves are preparing over electric stoves of the most modern type. There sure is a lot of food in Germany, it seems, and the French workers have their pick of it.

'And what do these French workers talk about at the dinner table? Listen to this: 'Questions of contracts, of salaries, of retainers, form the

main stream of conversation. How much will I get on my next pay? How much will we be able to send to our family?' "

"And then you see pictures of these happy French workers at their jobs. It is pointed out that they are first put through a test period. It says: 'Not that anyone doubts their ability. Rather for most of the workers it is a matter of getting them used to their new work and to judge better their knowledge. Certain of them, of course, are going to be reclassified.' "

"And then you read that M. André Altier—formerly master of wines in Bercy—is now doing the same kind of work in Magdeburg, while René Toug bakes beautiful cakes in a hotel in the same town.

"The Work Is Easy"

"Then comes a part of the book called 'The Family Life of Married Workers.' In this section you see whole families like the Perrins. Mr. Perrin is a shoemaker who lives with his wife and two daughters. They have recently joined him in Germany and work in a nearby factory. You see a picture of his wife at the kitchen stove preparing, it says, potato soup, a salad, and some rice cooked in milk. The copy adds: 'The gas stove keeps the housewife from losing her skill.' "

"There is a picture of another couple sitting at the table busily eating. The copy states: 'Each recognizes that these soups, made of potatoes and cabbages, are excellently prepared, cooked to a turn and miraculously rid of that barracks taste which too often is found in canteen foods.' "

"We now come to the section devoted to your French girls at work. It says: 'Women are put up in camps the same as men. They are awakened at 5 o'clock and lights are out at 10 o'clock. Work finishes at a quarter past 5. From the closing of the factory to their return to camp at 9 o'clock, workers have complete liberty. Two directresses watch over the girls. It is not an easy job when one has to keep 80 young French girls, who are often little devils, in hand.' "

"You would imagine these directresses to be terrible women, but forget it; they are energetic, surefooted but fair, good, well-meaning and very human. Our little workers—even the bad ones—are as deeply attached to their directresses as to their friends. Even when they commit a grave crime, the punishment that they fear the most is not that of being put into prison, but of being moved to another residence.

"The women have the same rations as the men. They also receive cigarettes, even if they are less than 21 years of age. Their average salary is 20 marks a week." (Before the war the mark was worth about 40 cents. It's funny money today—but at best 20 marks is about \$8 per week.)

"Then we see pictures of machinery and the little girls at work. The copy says: 'Thanks to the machines, the most modern work is easy.' "

"The section on young French boys is



about the same, except that under one photograph showing these kids leaving France is a caption that reads: 'They don't leave only to earn a few pence and to manufacture a few items, but more as missionaries of France. They seek by their perfect behavior to serve as examples to their fellow countrymen.'

"The rest of the book is given to the pleasures of working in Germany, with photographs of happy girls hoisting big steins of lager, listening to accordion concerts and walking gaily in the streets. 'After work,' the book says, 'they lounge on the terrace of a salon or sing songs at home. Others prefer a theater.'



"Then there's a section devoted to getting along with the German authorities. It says something about a '*Betriebsobmann*' — the confidence man of the workers, who is chosen by them and who participates in the direction of the

factory. 'No decision about salaries is taken without his consent; nothing escapes his control, either conditions of work, salaries, sanitary installations, social hygiene and other measures of protection. He is the bridge between employer and employee.'

Frenchic laid down "Images" and picked up a four-page folder entitled "French Workers in Germany." "Here's something that looks like a GI Bill of Rights for French workers in Germany. It says: 'German social insurance, more complete than our own, protects you.' First of all, there's sickness insurance. Who is entitled to it? Everyone. And from the very first day of work. Free care is unlimited, and if you are seized by an old illness it is considered like a disease recently contracted. 'Thus,' it says, 'the worker has the possibility of caring for a chronic sickness indefinitely while working between his sick periods. The doctor, the surgeon, the dentist and the medicines are completely free. After the fourth day, and for 26 weeks, the German sickness bank pays to the patient half his base salary.' And, it says, your rights to French social insurance remains guaranteed.

"Free Medical Care"

"Your wife and your children get free care by great specialists. Seventy percent of the price of medicines are paid by the Government. When a French woman worker becomes a mother she goes into confinement in a modern clinic. Doctor, midwife and medicines are entirely free.

"There is also accident insurance,' the headline says. 'In German factories there are few accidents. Reasonable working time and many security measures have eliminated accidents. Personal injury by bombardment in the factories is also covered. Contrary to enemy liars, there are relatively few victims of bombardment among French workers in Germany. As a matter of fact, life in camp has an advantage, for it takes the worker away from bombarded centers.'



"On the back page this folder really goes to town. 'Men and women workers of France,' it says, 'In placing you thus on a footing of equality with the German worker, the leaders of the Reich have wanted to point out that in Germany the French worker is held in high regard. The French worker who goes to Germany is assured that he will be protected

against all harm by social laws superior to ours. Under conditions governed by war and by his work, it is possible to build up your home life and to have children. The father or the husband who leaves to work in Germany does not abandon his family to sickness; but, on the contrary, by his departure he guarantees to his family in France medical care of the first class, which he would have been unable to offer them had he remained here. By this combination of laws the German people prove their complete unity with the French workers who have come to share their labor and their hardships. The link between our two peoples is indissolubly forged. It is a common battle for a future of peace and prosperity.'"

The boys whistled. "Is that Germany you're reading about," one of them asked, "or is it paradise?"

Frenchie went on to another little booklet printed in beautiful colors. "It starts off this way," he said: "'Yesterday low salaries created misery. Tomorrow your work will insure your well being and the well being of your family. Yesterday working hours were often reduced. To avoid unemployment you had to change your job. Strikes, lockouts, instability, lowered your income. Your salary was very low. Tomorrow you will be able to work 50, and even 60 hours a week. The chance to maintain your skill and to perfect it while continuing your work will be assured in a stable job. Your salary will be raised.

"Recreation Unlimited"

"'Nearly 200,000 workers have left France to work in Germany. Work contracts are adapted to your profession. The employment bureau studies with you the best conditions for your employment. You will be able to leave at once. Actually more than five special trains leave France weekly for Germany. Within limitations of available openings, you will be able to choose the place of your work. Your voyage is completely free and your food is guaranteed at the point of departure and at the frontier.

"'Salaries: The importance of salaries varies in Germany as it does in France, from one region to another. The salary of the working man cannot be the same as that of a skilled worker. The normal work week is from 48 hours up, but in most factories they work 55 hours and even 60 hours. Hours of work above that are paid at a higher rate.



"*Expenses* : The price of a room in a barracks ranges from 70 francs a week. Two meals at noon and evening, eaten in the canteens of the factories, cost about 80-120 francs a week.

"The married worker can send 3,200 francs a month to France. A single worker can send 2,400 francs."

"Then it tells about after-work pleasures. It asks: 'After work? But you are absolutely free to do what you please. Movies, theaters, concerts, cafés, music, sports, excursions, visits to museums, lectures; all are at your disposition. You can organize your private life as you please. You can write to anyone that you like. As for the future, by your initiative and your work you will assure yourself a better future. You will perfect your skill on modern machines. You will be taught new methods. You will realize your true worth. Upon your return to France you will represent the elite worker of the new Europe. For there is only one aristocracy—that of work.'

"Then it winds up with this clincher: 'And now, have you still the right to hesitate? No! Security and well being for you and yours. You will have a higher salary, adequate food, savings. . . . Come to work in Germany. Don't hesitate to apply at the Employment Bureau.'"

One of the men rose to his feet, put on his helmet and gave his pack a hitch. "Where are you going?" asked Frenchie. "To Germany," said the GI. "These Germans are really angels in disguise." "Sit down," said Frenchie. "You ain't heard nothing yet!"

"Everybody's Happy"

Frenchie picked up the brightest and biggest book of all. On the cover it said: "To work for Europe—Sauckel mobilizes the resources of Manpower."

"It starts off with a beautiful picture of Gauleiter Freitz Sauckel, who is in charge of manpower for the Reich. He looks like a Hollywood German, with a bull neck, pig eyes and a Hitler moustache. Sauckel writes the preface to this book. Here's what he says: 'Men and women workers of almost all the countries of Europe are engaged today by the millions in German war industry. Among them are millions of workers from states which had sworn to destroy the National Socialist Reich of Adolf Hitler, states whose territories are actually under the protection of German troops and of their laws.'



"I want to make it clear that all these recruited workers have forced themselves successfully to take an example from their German comrades and accomplish their tasks not only in a satisfactory fashion, but are giving excellent results. The present working system is an unanswerable proof that the great German National Socialist Reich is capable, in spite of blocks organized by its enemies, not only to feed in substantial fashion the millions of foreign workers, but even to house and clothe them comfortably; to watch after their health and even to organize their free time.

"These foreign workers today among us, prove that their respective peoples were only dupes and victims of the basest and vilest politicians and of Jewish plutocrats, and the valets of bolshevism. For the first time they have seen the true face of Germany. They have become acquainted with social and sanitary organizations, such as, in Soviet Russia, for instance, they would never have dared even dream. They have found in Germany highly developed social gains and culture so high that they have been not only struck with astonishment, but they have realized among themselves how monstrously they have been deceived by Bolshevik and Jewish capitalistic propaganda published for the last 10 years in their countries.

"Workers Just Love Hitler"

"Thus it has become perfectly natural that these millions of workers from many states work today with all their hearts in German factories for the victory of Germany—for the triumph of Adolf Hitler. And perhaps for the first time in their existence they have learned to realize the true justice of National Socialism, the safeguard of order and of honesty, which contrasts with capitalistic methods of exploitation and the terror regime of the Bolsheviks.

"It is necessary to see with what respect and gratitude foreign workers regard the portrait of the Fuehrer in the great German factories. What are they thinking of then? Do they think then of the hypercritical, jeering grimacing face of Churchill; or of that wreck of plutocracy, Roosevelt, sweating with duplicity and lies; or of the bestial face of the murderer Stalin? They realize then that only the world of Adolf Hitler can win. It is with these thoughts that they come to their work in the German war economy. They realize that they work for the triumph of justice.' Signed Fritz Sauckel, Gauleiter and Reichs Staatholder.

"Then come pictures and the sales talk. First a picture of a beautiful castle on the Rhine, with foreign workers basking in the sun and lapping up scenery. Then you see scenes of hundreds of French workers fighting to join the ranks of workers outside the German Placement Bureaus in Lyons, Paris, Marseilles and Montpellier. Then you see them line up for the medical examination, which precedes their employment. And here's a complete French family working together in a German factory. Next is a picture of Gauleiter Sauckel being presented with bread and salt by a beautiful Ukrainian girl dressed in her national costume.

"Then there's a special section devoted to workers from Russia. You see a poverty stricken shack and a battered waggon pulled by a scarecrow of a horse. The caption says: 'Thus the 350,000 workers left their Soviet paradise. This waggon carries the workers leaving for Germany.' And then you see Ukrainians on the road to the railroad station and in the assembling camp. The next picture shows food being distributed. The food consists of boiled potatoes and a piece of bread. Then there's a picture that shows everybody busily reading newspapers and magazines. 'During a halt, reading helps pass the time,' says the caption.



"Next there is a shot of the workers getting off the train in Augsburg. One of them has bare feet. It says under the picture: 'At the end of the trip, which they undertook even with bare feet.'"

"There is then a shot of two snappy looking Ukrainian girls. After that come dozens of shots of busy workers at fancy machines, all of them smiling happily at their work. Everything is clean and bright. The girls are all beautiful and the men are all young and handsome. It reminds you of tooth paste ads back home."



"There's a whole section given to eating. One picture shows potatoes and sausage being sliced. Another picture shows just potatoes. A third picture is captioned 'People of all nations peeling potatoes.' Next is a picture of an Italian cook. He is frying potatoes. And then you see people lining up for bowls of potato soup. You see them seated at the table eating the soup. The caption says: 'The dinner is succulent. French women and workers from the East eat with a good appetite.' And so it goes until you come to the end where the book really goes to town, with pictures of freed prisoners of war thanking the workers for their act of liberation. You



see boys and girls of all nations sunbathing and mingling in scenes of incomparable beauty. You see a young Ukrainian girl writing to her mother: 'I feel fine.' There is dancing and music and checkers and games. There are moving pictures, sports, variety shows, afternoon coffee parties and New Year's parties. There are weddings, excursions, swimming

meets, races. And there is a picture of 20 newspapers published in foreign languages for the workers.

"Finally there is a picture showing the massed flags of Europe with the Swastika in the center and a great sign which reads 'Europa Siegt'—'Europe is victorious'."

But How Does It Actually Work?

There were a few seconds of silence. Then one of the soldiers whistled. "And look at us, a pack of heels, trying to bust up heaven on earth!"

"Corny," said another.

"Maybe," said a third, "but it makes me realize what it would mean to lose this war. The Germans aren't out just to lick their enemies this time. They're out to change them completely—to change their natures and poison their minds. You can parry a German bayonet. But how do you protect yourself against stuff that's aimed at your love of family? Or your sympathy for your fellow countrymen who are German prisoners? Or the hunger of your kids? Or the gnawing in your own guts?"

"I wonder," asked the fourth, "what really happened—and how these tooth paste ads. compare with the real McCoy?"

Let's look at the answer to that last question. The answer is found in the archives of the French Government, and based on carefully prepared authenticated reports from countless official sources. The facts are these:—

The Germans overran France in June, 1940. For two years, using the sweetness, love and light technique, they tried to induce the people of France to work for the German war machine. In all of France, during that period, about 100,000 French workers enlisted in German industry. The campaign was a failure.

On June 22, 1942, Laval went to the radio and made an appeal to the people of France. His appeal was for what is known as the *Releve*.

Releve roughly means "Replacement." His plea was this: "Enlist in the German war effort. Go to work in Germany. For every skilled worker who goes to Germany one French prisoner will be allowed to go free."



Here was an idea that interested some Frenchmen. They were anxious to get their prisoners home. It might be proper for a man to work in Germany for an unselfish motive—to send home a French soldier to his family, or at least to take the place of a prisoner who for two years had known the dreariness of a German prison camp.

But what happened? The terms of the *Releve* were immediately changed. Suddenly it was announced that three skilled workers would replace one prisoner, and if the French worker arrived in Germany and was deemed unskilled by the Germans, no prisoner would be returned. The unskilled worker, nevertheless, was kept.

The Nazis Renege

But the propaganda campaign went on. The basic appeals were these: You will free a prisoner. You yourself will be free. You will be well paid. You will be insured. You will increase your skill.

But the French were either too wise to fall for German propaganda or they recognized quickly in the swift change of replacement odds that the Germans were not sincere. Volunteers in the desired numbers simply didn't show up.

That cancelled the German plan. The plan called for as many Frenchmen leaving France as possible. Why? Because Germany feared the French resistance movement. They wanted potential resistance recruits out of country. They wanted to separate the men and women of France so that the country would become depopulated. Moreover, losses on the Russian front were enormous. Foreign workers were needed to replace German workers. German replacements were needed at the front.



And so on September 4, 1942, a law was passed controlling French labor and giving the Government power to use the labor of French men and women in whatever way it wished. The law decreed that all Frenchmen from 18 to 50 and all single French women from 21 to 35 who were physically fit and who could not justify the work they were doing as essential work would be forced to do what the Ministry of Labor told them to do.

This law put teeth into Germany's bid for French labor. The provisions that applied to the men were enforced immediately. On December 16, 1942, the Vichy radio announced that 205,000 French workers were in Germany—115,000 of them skilled.

But the Germans didn't rely entirely on the law. They controlled the cost of living in France and they controlled wages. They pushed the cost of living up from 200 to 300 percent. The biggest increase in wages ever permitted was 25 percent, and this affected only a very few people.



German Press-Gangs "Recruit" Labor

All French laws, of course, had to have the consent of Adolf Hitler. If Vichy tried to raise wages Hitler said no. Meanwhile Germany offered high wages to workers in German war factories. These high wages were publicized, but one important fact about them was withheld. That fact was that all incomes earned in Germany were subject to 30 percent income tax. The Germans, in short, applied a squeeze play plus deception.

On October 20, 1942, Laval made another appeal to the French. "Since yesterday," he said, "I have more hope for France. The German Government has promised me that if more workers consent to go to Germany over and above the present quota, the wives of prisoners will be permitted to go to Germany to join their husbands."

Few wives were so blinded by loneliness that they could not see through the Hitler-Laval plea. On October 20, 1942, the farce was dropped. Germany raised its iron fist and brought it down on French labor. From that day on, Frenchmen were rounded up and hundreds were shipped to Germany without their consent.

The methods used were many. German troops would enter a factory and force workers into a room. Some would be chosen for shipment to Germany. They were marched into trucks, taken to the station and shipped across the border forthwith.

Sometimes a few streets were closed off by German troops. All the men found in those streets were examined. Those who met the German specifications were put into cars, sent to the station and shipped out.

Sometimes certain factories were closed, the excuse being that raw materials had given out. The unemployed were then rounded up and shipped to Germany. There was no more pretence. The sweetness-love-and-light business was kaput.

On February 16, 1943, Laval signed another edict which appeared in the official journal. It put more teeth into the law of September, 1942.



It fixed the length of forced work for 2 years. It included specifically men born between January 1, 1920, and December 31, 1922. These men were mobilized. Some were permitted to remain on their regular jobs—particularly farmers. A few were sent to the German war factories in France. All others who qualified physically were shipped to Germany. What were the penalties if you didn't go? Five years for one offence; ten years for two offences.

Sweetness, Love And Light—Good-Night

A general Commissariat for compulsory labor was put in charge. Their job was to chase Frenchmen into Germany.

In February, 1943, Sauckel, Chief of German Labor, demanded 300,000 more French workers. He stated that if they arrived in Germany before the end of March, 50,000 French prisoners would be liberated. What a change had occurred in the terms of the relief! Originally, remember, it was one prisoner for one worker. Now it was one prisoner for six workers!

But Sauckel had additional bait. He promised that 250,000 other prisoners would be permitted to become free workers in Germany. This sounded like another break for the French prisoner. What it really meant was that a prisoner who became a German worker was no longer protected by the Geneva Convention. He was more defenseless than a prisoner behind bars. He would have limited freedom within the factory area, but he could not leave Germany. He had no protection against any rulings the German Labor Front might make.

The plea failed. Things got tougher. All men of 21 were mobilized for German war industry. Now there were no longer any exceptions. A new decree demanded 220,000 more men by July 1, 1943, making 520,000 in all for a three-month period. In August, 30,000 French boys together with their leaders were taken from their camps in the south of France, where they had been living since Germany took over the entire country, and were shipped to Germany.

On October 15, Laval and Sauckel met again. They decided to dangle one more plum of friendship before the French people. They proudly announced that no more French workers were needed in Germany until the end of the year. That announcement was made, remember, on October 15, 1943. The end of the year was about two months away.

Those two months, however, saw a major exchange take place. Old, infirm Frenchmen who had broken down in Germany were shipped back to France. Their places were taken by youngsters. To fill the ranks, all boys born in 1923 were mobilized, plus all those born in the first quarter of 1927.

Finally, in January, 1944, 500,000 more workers were demanded by Sauckel, and the compulsory labor statutes for women were put into effect. The labor squeeze is now on in earnest.

On May 15, 1944, Sauckel requested one million more men to be

deported to Germany. To Laval's objection that transport was not available, he answered, "They will have to go on foot."

Since the beginning of 1944, requisition of labor for Germany has affected trade, banking, civil service and even agriculture as well as industry and young men.

Even regular officers demobilized in the last months of 1942, after the total occupation of France, may be conscripted.

That is the record of Germany's war of sweetness, love and light. It failed as utterly and as miserably as every other Nazi dream. Altogether Hitler demanded 1,500,000 French workers. It is roughly estimated that he never got more than 900,000. In addition, about 350,000 French prisoners became workers.

What about Germany's promises? How were they kept?

About half a million prisoners were freed and returned to France. They were either wounded or gravely ill or aged veterans of the first world war. They were men who could not have families and who were unable to do war work.

Workers in Germany were paid more than workers in France, but income taxes ate up 30 percent of their income.

A special system of fines prevailed in Germany. You were fined if you spoke out of turn. You were fined for lateness: 20 marks for each five minutes. You were fined if you didn't understand what you were told, and you were told what to do in German, not French.

Food and lodging were high—much higher than the pretty words promised. No savings were possible.

Medical care was a farce. The doctor, not the patient, had the whiphand, and the doctor was ordered not to let French workers remain away from their machines.

There were no return trips to France upon the expiration of the contract. There were no holidays. The Germans explained why. "We gave holidays once, but you didn't return. So now you can't have any holidays."

Insurance, good housing, good food, safety—the archives of the Free French Government are filled with carefully checked accounts of the tragedy that actually occurred. Hundreds of French workers, contrary to promises, went to big war factories in Hamburg, Vienna, the Ruhr, and were bombed. Air raid shelter facilities were limited. The Germans had priority. French workers died. And there was no insurance.

As for living conditions and food—the pretty booklets tell the story. It was potatoes and cabbage, and dirty lodgings quite unlike the famous Villa Miralanda.

The German Employment Bureaus kept up their front. The presses kept rolling. The sham war of sweetness, love and light went on for propaganda effect.

But behind the kindly words and pretty pictures were the same old Boches—and the same old war.



How to prepare this Army Talk

IN no other war have machines and material been so important. Facing defeat in the war of production Germany has tried to increase its output by luring or forcing the people of occupied Europe into the war factories and mills. This article exposes the Nazi program of deceit and oppression.

This ARMY TALKS helps you understand the trials of our French ally and the nature of our Germany enemy. The Germans have unscrupulously played on French love of family and patriotism in their effort to enlist French workers. They promised food and social benefits to the families of volunteers. They pledged their "Nazi honor" that French PWs would be returned in exchange for skilled laborers. This was hitting below the belt—asking the French to sell their country short in return for gilded promises. But the French were equal to the test. Few played the Nazi game. So the Nazis gave less attention to ballyhooing their "picture paradise" and began shanghaiing workers.

You and every other soldier of the United Nations are responsible for this Nazi program. You're the guys that made it necessary. Our airforce hit Nazi industry. Our infantry and tanks destroyed German equipment in the field. Our SOS men brought in new supplies and increased the task of German production. As a result the Germans resorted to slave labor.

Many provocative questions are raised in this issue. Was the German program foolish? Is it psychologically possible to sell a conquered people on the idea of helping the victor by hi-pressure ballyhoo? What would your reaction have been if you had been in the position of the French worker? How is French morale and policy affected by the presence of this body of hostages in German control? To what degree have imported laborers strengthened German economy? How will the population curve of France be influenced by this German labor policy? Do you regard this as a deliberate part of the German plan to weaken the France of tomorrow?

Introduce the topic with a talk of not more than ten minutes. Summarize the discussion five minutes before the close of the period. Link your discussion if possible with the American Forces Network program, Saturday, 2 September, 1944, at 1430 hours. In France, when you cannot discuss the topic, *read* the pamphlet. There will be enough copies.

Notes to Discussion Leaders

These paragraphs are taken from a letter recently received by the editor.

... During the past two or three weeks I have been "listening in" on a number of ARMY TALK groups, and it seems to me that there are almost no "poor" discussion leaders, or "poor" groups. But there are several in both categories who are inexperienced. Most of the officers and G.I.s are keen. Maybe a few observations might be of some practical use.

Presentation of the topic often takes too long. I heard two that lasted forty-five minutes each. This is rarely excusable, and only if the man talking has a *very* specialized knowledge of the topic, and is recognized as an authority. In the case of such a discussion talk as "G.I. Bill of Rights" that long presentation is quite wrong. The G.I.s are ready to shoot off their ideas and questions at a moment's notice. . . .

The best discussion of this talk that I encountered was one where the leader took exactly *thirty seconds*, and then turned to one of his men, and said: "Philpott, you're going farming. How much will you need to

borrow?" From then on, knowing or asking each man what part of the G.I. Bill of Rights hit him, there was never a let-up in the rapid fire of focussed discussion. There were twenty-one men in the group. Twelve at the end knew exactly how they were going to make use of the G.I. Bill opportunities.

Then there's a lot of trouble on transition from the presentation to the discussion. That can be easily done with a little forethought. Don't stop periodically and say: "Any questions?" That's like the cub reporter who sticks his head in the door, and says: "No news today?" Have at least two or three in mind whom you know have special interests, or will disagree with the view expressed, and say: "Binks, that's not what you believe, is it?" Almost *never ask* for questions *directly*.

The discussion idea is certainly taking on. It's going a bit slowly, but gradually the opportunities for controlled "bull sessions" are being appreciated. G.I.s ~~are~~ realizing that they *are expected* to take part. Leaders, in most of the ten talks I've heard recently, are realizing that they *want* to participate. . . .

Morale Builders



IN times when military operations proceed according to plan, the spirits of the fighting forces are naturally high. But that doesn't release you from the duty of telling the men again and again what this war is all about. It's because you haven't really won a war unless you know what you are fighting for.

The orientation program is employing up-to-the-minute techniques to help the discussion leaders in presenting each week's ARMY TALKS. Make full use of these aids—and your orientation hour will be a success.

ARMY TALKS ON THE AIR



Tune in on your American Forces Network station for a dramatized presentation of the week's ARMY TALK. Tie it up with your talk, use it as a self-starter for the discussion.

Time: **Saturday, 2 September, 1944, at 1430-1500 hours.**

Choose any convenient spot where you have a radio and a room for your platoon to listen in and follow up discussing the subject.

ARMY TALKS IN THE NEWS



The subject matter of this week's ARMY TALK will appear in an illustrated GI digest in the Warweek supplement of Stars and Stripes on **Thursday, 31 August, 1944.**

Purpose: to enable the soldier to enter the discussion with prior knowledge of the subject. Warweek, official orientation organ for the ETO, is striving to make the American soldier in this theater the best informed soldier in the world.

1ST *in importance is morale...*

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL